

# October

Magic Lantern Society  
of the United States and Canada



*Caution this publication may be haunted!*

LOOK for those Buttons and roll-over effects

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*Click image to see more!*

## Identify Monogram of Lantern Maker “MWD”

**From Nathan Troy**

nathan.troy@gmail.com

To whom it may concern:  
I just found a magic lantern. The monogram under the light source is “MWD.” Do you know who this is? Thank you for any help that you can offer.

Sincerely,  
Nathan Troy

Dear Mr. Evans;  
Thank you so much for your quick reply. I will enclose two photos that might be of assistance to you.  
Thank you for lending your expertise.  
Regards,  
Nathan Troy

**From David Evans**

Hello Nathan

Is it definitely MWD? The initials MD, sometimes with a fir tree and/or a curved horn, could be Max Dannhorn, a German manufacturer of tot lanterns in the late 19th Century. It just might be referring to Matthew William Dunscombe (b. 1841, d. 1918), an English optician and lantern and slide dealer in Bristol (UK). He may, or may not, have actually made lanterns, but he certainly sold them.



Could you send me a picture of the lantern, and the monogram if possible, when we might be able to be more specific.

Thank you for contacting us.

David Evans

Dear Nathan

I think not Dannhorn or Dunscombe. I am wondering if the monogram might not be MDW, as the W could be the dominant letter, perhaps for a last name.

What is the unit the monogram is on? It looks as if it might be an oil reservoir, or is it part of the lamp support?

I suggest we include this in our next E-Publication (October) in the hope that one of our members might recognise it.

As you suggested, the slide does not help with identification, but it looks like a nice crank-operated slide.

Regards

David

The monogram logo is on the lamp tray, so may refer to the lamp manufacturer rather than the lantern manufacturer.



Below is information we received from our member in Italy.

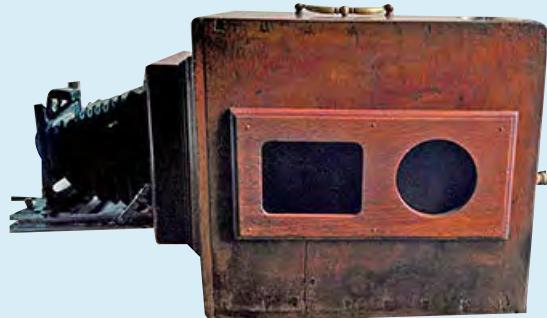
Dear members of MLS,  
a few weeks ago, we received this strange camera (see pictures) in donation. The folding camera is a common Zeiss Ikon but the box to which it has been connected looks older and has some elements that I have never seen before. If there were anyone who knows what it is, I'd like to find out more!

Kind regards,  
Laura Minici Zotti

Museo del PRECINEMA

## Curious Photo-Camera

From Laura Minici Zotti



*Looking for help determining the purpose of this pictured camera.*

*Have you seen a camera like this?  
What are the back modification used for?*

*Your responses will be shared in our monthly e-pub.*



From David Evans

Dear Laura

It does look an odd contraption. Thinking aloud, as it were, the black cloth at the back suggests an operator looking at a viewing or focusing screen; the camera attached to the front also suggests that this device is for taking photographs. Could it be an adaptor for allowing the camera to take half-plate photographs? How does the size of the aperture where the viewing screen would be compare in size with a standard photographic plate? I don't have any idea what the wood plate with the round and rectangular apertures is for, unless it is a mask for something.

Maybe someone in the Society can come up with something!

Kind regards

David Evans



*continued next page*

## **Curious Photo-Camera Continued**

### **From Laura Minici Zotti**

thanks a lot for the reply. Your idea seems very plausible to me, but I don't have the possibility to take other measures at the moment. I wonder if someone of your readers has ever seen the insert with the round and rectangular darkened glasses!

Best wishes  
Laura Minici Zotti



### **Question About Sears Slide Set**

#### **From Jonathan Winter**

jwinter@sparkmuseum.org

Have you seen or do you know who might have a set of slides sold by the Sears Co. in early 1900's. The Title: "The Passage of the Indian". Catalog # for set was 21R242. The Catalog was 1905. I just want to know what the message was.

Thank you for your time,  
Jonathan Winter

#### **From David Evans**

Hello Jonathan

Thank you for your query, which I cannot answer myself off-hand. It is quite possible that one of our members knows the answer and we can put your question in our next E-publication (October, as the September one has just gone out). Quite probably someone will know the slide set.

Jonathan Winter is one of the founders of the Spark Museum of Electrical Invention in Bellingham, WA.

Kind regards

David Evans

## **Antique Photographica Sale**

**3:00pm, October 6, 2018**



Our Fall Antique Photographica Auction Catalog is now online, you can go directly to the catalog at: <http://www.rtam.com/stereographica/cgi-bin/catalog.cgi>

The auction closes Saturday, October 6, 2018, at 3:00pm (US Eastern Time Zone) and features over 200 lots of fine Antique Photographica imagery & hardware. Included in the sale are Daguerreotypes, Ambrotypes, Tintypes, Stereo Views, Cabinet Cards, Cartes de Visite, Union Cases, Autochromes, Stereoscopes, Pre-Cinema, Optical Toys, Magic Lanterns, Ephemera and related material. The sale features live real time on-line bidding, however you must pre-register in order to bid. Please register early.

We are pleased to accept payment by US Dollar or Sterling checks, money orders, wire transfers or Credit Cards through Paypal. A 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to the final price of each lot. Please be sure to review all the Auction Rules / Terms and Conditions of Sale, before bidding.

Sincerely, Bryan & Page Ginns

## Illumination Used in Magic Lanterns

**From Tejaswini Apte-Rahm**

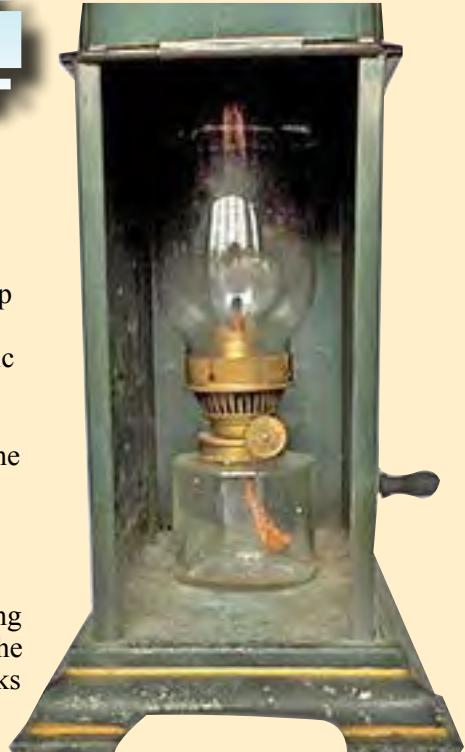
tejaswiniapte@gmail.com

Hello, I have just been reading through your wonderful website. It gives a great overview of the history of magic lanterns. I wonder if you could help me with a query - I would like



to know how exactly a kerosene lamp would have been used to provide the illumination for a magic lantern show. Where exactly is the kerosene lamp placed? And what would be the distance of projection that could be achieved by using a kerosene lamp? I would also be grateful if you could point me to any photographs or illustrations showing the use of a kerosene lamp within the magic lantern apparatus. With thanks and best wishes,

Tejaswini.



**From David Evans**

Hello Tejaswini

Glad you like our web site!

Kerosene lamps were used around the mid to late 19th Century to illuminate the slide in a magic lantern. They were used a lot in small toy lanterns, as it was considered 'safe' for small children to spend time in the basement with kerosene and a box of matches to entertain their friends with a lantern show! The lamp

would have consisted of a small reservoir, usually metal, to hold the kerosene, with a screw-in top containing a wick, adjustment screw to raise and lower the wick (and hence the brightness) and some claws to hold the glass chimney. For larger lanterns projecting larger pictures, multiple wick kerosene lamps were developed. I attach some pictures showing the kind of thing. The small lamps often have the words 'Wiener Flachbrenner' on the adjusting screw, which many seem to think was the maker. It actually means 'Vienna flat wick', being the

shape of the wick used, developed in that country.

You may already have seen [www.magiclanternsociety.org/about-magic-lanterns/illumination-used/](http://www.magiclanternsociety.org/about-magic-lanterns/illumination-used/) which tells you a bit about magic lantern illumination.

If I can help further, do let me know, and thank you for contacting us.

David Evans

## Glass Slides

**From: Greg Schwartzmiller**  
glockmd30@hotmail.com

Good Day, any instruction on care, cleaning and repair of glass slides. Have some slides in which the glass is broken and I would like to repair them. Any information would be great.

Thank you

Thank you for the reply. I didn't just want to jump in and try anything without a bit of information. I will try to separate and see which glass piece is broken and proceed from there.

**From: David Evans**

Hello Greg

If the broken glasses are the cover glasses you can easily replace them. If you don't have any spare cover glasses you can cut them from old picture glass, which is generally about the right thickness. Window glass is too thick. Binding tape was originally passe partout, a ready-gummed paper tape available in pre-cut lengths for slide-binding. These days you may be able to purchase a roll of it from Internet searches, otherwise gummed paper parcel tape can be used. Not plastic tape, as it will probably melt if the slide gets warm during projection. If the image glass is broken there isn't much you can do, except perhaps scan it digitally and enhance it on the computer before dismantling it. If the image glass is broken but the cover glass is OK you now have a spare cover glass! Cleaning should be restricted to the outside surfaces, as the

The out side glass I will try to clean with distilled water first before trying any other cleaning agent.

We were clearing the basement of our old Masonic Lodge and found the glass masonic slides and an McIntosh Stereopticon projector. It doesn't have a light source and I will be trying a 10 watt Cree LED driving light as a source.

I would like to try and take pictures of the slides and try and use them as a power point program.

Again, thank you  
Greg Schwartzmiller

Slides are 3.25X4 with taped edges. Attached is a picture I found of the slide projector. It looks like the slide mount is intact. Our lodge is small and I will be projecting the images about 20 feet.

The slide holder is wood that will hold two different slides that move left and right.

I am going to try and copy the pictures into a computer file and try to use power point. Just to save wear and tear on the slides and projector.

Thank you for your help.

for a reasonable price and will fit directly into the lantern, if you have the original sliding mount. Let me know if that is of interest and I can pass the information to you.

The best way to take pictures of them is with a transparency scanner.

Regards

OK - regular size slides, so they will fit in a regular slide carrier. I think you will find 10W is not nearly bright enough, but if you are using Powerpoint that is irrelevant of course. Good luck and hope it all goes well.

David Evans

## Members Share Observations of Magic Lantern Props in Television and Films

### From Steve Barnes

I don't know how many members watch "Elementary" on TV. It is a modern Sherlock Holmes type show. There is a Magic Lantern on the mantel in his Library. I have recently, over the summer reruns, started looking at them more closely. I have noticed they seem to change the lantern (sometimes) from show to show. Has anyone else noticed that? I Also in one of the shows they had a lantern with the round slide in the lantern, but not placed properly. Instead of it being in a support/holder to align it with the lens, it was just sitting on the bottom on the base. Therefore it was below the lens alignment. Not sure who is providing the lanterns, but they need some help if they want them displayed properly. Members may want to watch to see how often they change the lantern & if they have them improperly set up in the new season. I am not versed in identifying toy lanterns, but don't know if members that are would find it fun to try & identify the lantern(s) in the new season. You may need to look closely to notice them on the left of the mantel in the library, as they are usually only shown briefly. In some episodes they have not shown that part of the Library, or just not had a lantern on the mantel. I haven't quite figured that one out yet. Notice there are 2 room with mantels, but they only have a lantern in what I think is the library on the left side of the mantel. It (for me) is sometimes hard to decide which of the 2 rooms with mantels in they are in from shot to shot. The right side of the mantel with the lantern has some sort of white odd shaped & sort of skeletonized looking unidentified thing (at least unidentified by me), if that will help you know which mantel to look for the lantern on.

Steve Barnes

Elementary is right on time with "Ill Tidings"



Elementary Review: The Geek Interpreter (Season 6)



*more examples next page*

## Past Interest in Magic Lantern Props in Television and Films

### From January 2013 Epub



**From Shel Izen**

Background Props on  
NCIS: Los Angeles Season 4 Episode 8



Hell on Wheels Season 1 Scrapbook

Magic Lantern slide projector and “Soiled  
Doves” slides from Episode 9.



**From David Evans**

More Magic lanterns spotted on a tv show.

I don't know if any of you can get the new  
Australian detective series Miss Fisher's  
Mysteries, filmed this year, and set in the  
mid-1920s.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BuWb2a2MAqU&feature=endscreen&NR=1>

*Share your  
observations of magic  
lantern materials being  
used on television or in  
the movies*

**Email Larry with your  
contribution**  
designerlc@comcast.net

## Panorama of a Whaling Voyage Around the World

From Kentwood Wells



In August, my wife and I visited the Grand Panorama of A Whaling Voyage 'Round the World on display in New Bedford, Massachusetts. The painted panorama, on four sets of rollers, is on display in an old mill a few miles from the New Bedford Whaling Museum. In the museum itself there is a video recreation of the moving panorama as it would have been seen by audiences in 1848. There are scenes of whalers in all the world's oceans from the tropics to the poles. A surprise feature is a small display case next to the video projection with a couple

of magic lanterns and slides, borrowed from Terry Borton. The museum gift shop has available a handsomely illustrated two-volume book giving the history of the panorama and its restoration. The exhibits run through October 14, and are well worth seeing for those in the New England area. The museum itself has a lot of other interesting material on whaling and sea-faring. See the museum webpage for details. <https://www.whalingmuseum.org/>



## Biunial or Phantasmagoria Lantern

### From Melissa Ferrari

[melissa.ferrari@alum.calarts.edu](mailto:melissa.ferrari@alum.calarts.edu)

Hello!

I am wondering if any members currently have a mahogany biunial magic lantern or phantasmagoria lantern for sale. I am actively working on shows and I am looking to upgrade my lantern set-up. Please don't hesitate to contact at [melissa.ferrari@alum.calarts.edu](mailto:melissa.ferrari@alum.calarts.edu).

Additionally, I have been creating new mechanical lantern slides using laser cut wood parts. I am still tweaking the designs, but if anyone is interested in the Adobe Illustrator files to laser cut wood parts, I am happy to share the files to use for your own custom slides. Just email me.

Thank you!  
Melissa Ferrari

### From Melissa

Yes! I am doing my best to channel the 19th century slide makers. I had been making slides by hand, but I'm not the best woodworker, so I started using a laser cutter to cut various pieces out of wood. I am still tweaking the designs, but I look at antique slides for inspiration and I use Adobe Illustrator to make the designs for the laser cutter. I am happy to share the files if you ever want to try laser cutting your own slides. Thank you so much!

Melissa



### From David Evans

Hi Melissa

We just sold a mahogany biunial lantern in the auction at our last Convention. Will add your request to our next E-Publication. It may be that one of our members may have what you need.

Could you send us a picture or two of your creations for the E-Pub?

You are doing pretty much what the 19th Century slide makers did, and in much the same way. I am sure they are very effective on the screen. I particularly like your gear work on the astronomical slide. Do you cut them by hand? Good job!

Regards

David Evans



## Lanterns and Slides

**From Monica Nevitt**

monnevitt@gmail.com



Hello, in my late father's estate I found several lanterns and many slides. Some of famous people and places. I would be interested in talking to you about these works.

Monica



**From David Evans**

Hello Monica

Could you send me a few pictures of the lanterns and slides? Would be able to talk more knowledgeably about them then. Please include any information such as makers' names, addresses etc. and a few slide images if possible.

Thank you for contacting us.

Regards  
David Evans



**CINÉMATHÈQUE  
CATALOG  
OF THE CINÉMATHÈQUE  
FRANÇAISE AND THE CNC**

*Next meeting: Friday, October 5, 2018  
2.30 pm*

## **PERCEPTION OF MOVEMENT AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES**

Meeting with Alain Berthoz, Honorary Professor at the Collège de France, with Thierry Lefebvre and Laurent Mannoni

And if the technique of cinema was born almost 130 years ago in laboratories of the College de France? The famous Étienne-Jules Marey, physiologist and biomechanist, records the first films as early as 1889 and his successors - François-Francck, in particular - continued avant-garde research on the movement. The experiments carried on the line mareysienne then propel themselves to new paths, rich in discoveries: neurology, philosophy, cognitive psychology, virtual reality, double, avatar, robot ... what are current experiments conducted in physiology labs modern around the movement? How do we perceive the movement and, fortiori, the cinema?

Laurent Mannoni  
Scientific Director of Heritage  
and the Conservatoire des techniques

[http://www.cinematheque.fr/fr/catalogues/appareils/collection.html?sort=date\\_ajout&sortway=desc&categorie=37](http://www.cinematheque.fr/fr/catalogues/appareils/collection.html?sort=date_ajout&sortway=desc&categorie=37)

## Possible Slide Editor?

From Nicole Fletcher

nicole.fletcher@umanitoba.ca

Hello,

I work at an archives and I have an object that I'm unsure of what it is. The previous owner of the piece was an avid user and creator of lantern slides for his lectures and presentations so I was wondering if it may have something to do with the creation or editing of the slides. Have you seen anything like this? There's a link to a Reddit post I made about it below. I do know it is from about 1920. [https://www.reddit.com/r/Physics/comments/9fsnqz/help\\_identifying\\_old\\_scientific\\_equipment/](https://www.reddit.com/r/Physics/comments/9fsnqz/help_identifying_old_scientific_equipment/)

Best,  
Nicole Fletcher



The previous owner of it used to project microscope slides, so it may well be that it is for editing those.

Dear Nicole

An interesting device. You say (on the Reddit link) that it is about 9" high. How wide is the slot on the moveable arm? I am wondering if it would take 35mm film, so that you could locate a single frame in the arm? We can include your enquiry (and picture, if it is OK with you) in our next E-Publication (October) in the hope that one of our members may recognize it.

I think you have hit upon it! Microscope slides are basically 25 x 75 mm, generally with a depression in the middle for the sample. I think the device is for holding a microscope slide and the movable arm for masking the sample area, He could then photograph the slide with its mask and make a regular lantern slide from the result.

I may be wrong of course...

Thank you for contacting us.

David Evans



## Lens Configuration

Dear Mike

Yes, do send some pictures, especially of the lenses if possible. There should be a large lens inside the lantern body, about 4 to 5" diameter, situated right behind the slide area and as you say, a combination objective lens in front. If it won't focus it is possible that someone has dismantled the objective lens for cleaning and assembled it again in the wrong order.

Thank you for contacting us.



From Michael Dutka  
facilities@firstumcoakpark.org

We have found an electric version of Magic Lantern in our storage area along with many glass slides. The bulb lights up but we are having difficulty focusing an image onto a screen. there are two lenses inside the unit and one at the end of the bellows, but it doesn't seem to focus no matter which configuration we are trying. i can send photographs of the unit and lenses if i can get an email address for the society. You were very helpful in providing me with information to use in my film, "Loie Fuller, Dancing In The Light Fantastic" several years ago, and i hope you can help me now. Mike Dutka



Thanks for getting back so quickly! Pictures are attached.

Dear Mike

It looks quite normal to me. The two lenses in the body together are the condenser lens assembly. Bear in mind these lanterns were made for auditoria, so it will have a very long focus lens. It might be 14" or so, meaning that you may have to extend the bellows quite a bit and try it against a screen (or wall) maybe 20 feet or so away. Just experiment with it and you should be able to work it out. Once you manage to focus it you can gradually try moving the bellows in a bit and moving the lantern closer to or further away from the wall. If you can get it to focus at all in a small room the picture may only be a few inches across.

Good luck, and do let me know how you get on.

Regards

David Evans

## Magic Lantern Conference in Australia

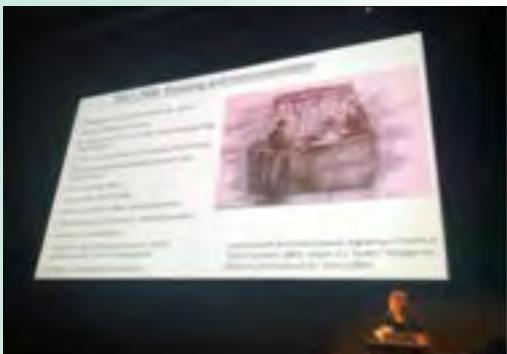
### From Martyn Jolly

Martyn.Jolly@anu.edu.au

The Magic Lantern in Australia and the World  
A collaborative conference between the National Film and Sound Archive and the Australian National University.

Part of the Australian Research Council Discovery Project Heritage in the Limelight: The Magic Lantern in Australia and the World.

136 people from 6 countries saw 34 papers and 8 performances & creative works over 3 days & nights, 4 - 6 September 2018.



ARC Cinema, NFSA. Keynote speaker Associate Professor Jennifer Tucker, Wesleyan University.



Some of the hand-painted slides used in Five Scenes for a Modern Prometheus



ARC Cinema, NFSA. Elisa deCourcy demonstrates a twenty-first century chromatrope, algorithmically coded by computer scientist Kieran Browne and built with laser cut acrylic by engineer Miheng Dong.

ARC Cinema, NFSA. Dr Jenny Gall introduces Margaret Bergh and Nancy Stewart, USA, Picture the Songs: The Life Model Illustrated Song in Australia.



Dr Elisa deCourcy, Associate Professor Martyn Jolly, Dr Alexander Hunter and Karen Vickery perform Five Scenes for a Modern Prometheus on original magic lanterns with original magic lantern slides.



### Schedule



We will continue our groups shows periodically through the next couple of months. Anyone interested in one or more of those shows will have to visit our website,

<http://amishexperience.com/magic-lantern-shows/>

Beginning November 23rd, we will be running our Christmas Show, "A Christmas Journey". Show times for that are as follows:

November 23rd and 24th - 2pm and 7pm

December 1, 8 and 15 - 2pm and 7pm

December 18th - 22nd - 2pm and 7pm

December 24th - 2pm only

December 26th - 29th - 2pm and 7pm

December 31 - 12 noon only

Thanks again!

Mark Sullivan

## American Magic Lantern Theater



### From Terry & Debbie Borton

Now Touring From a New Base

The American Magic Lantern Theater has moved its base of operations from Connecticut to Pennsylvania, but is continuing to offer shows throughout the country and the world.

The company is just back from a performance at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Quebec City. The Cathedral is a magnificent 1804 historic building, and the show – part of the City's Cinema Festival – drew a good crowd and generated a standing ovation, despite the fact that the show was in English for a French Speaking audience.

PA-based singer Charlotte Paulsen, who has become part of the troupe and who has appeared on opera stages throughout Europe and the US, gave a rousing rendition of Carmen in French, complete with castanets to Beale's pictures of the opera. The audience loved it.



### High Resolution Photo with Permission to Use

#### From Adam Wattay

adamwattay@gmail.com

I am looking to purchase the use of the X\_ccarol01 slide which is the picture of Bob Cratchit with Scrooge. I need a high resolution image.



#### From David Evans

OK - thanks. So Newton, hand drawn. We need someone who has that exact slide, the means to scan it at a high resolution and the willingness to do so. May or may not be possible, but we can try.

David

## A Big Thank You to the following:

contributing to this months issue.

Steve Barnes	Mark Sullivan
Terry & Debbie Borton	Nathan Troy
Michael Dutka	Adam Wattay
David & Lesley Evans	Kentwood Wells
Nicole Fletcher	Jonathan Winter
Melissa Ferrari	Laura Minici Zotti
Bryan & Page Ginns	
Monica Nevitt	
Tejaswini Apte-Rahm	
Greg Schwartzmiller	

## Now it's your turn to share!

Do you have a favorite site or a collection of images you would like to share with the rest of the society?

**E-mail Larry**

## Saying Hello

### From John Edelson

john@edelson.info

Just noticed your site and society and added a mention to my blog post about Magic Lanterns. One of these days, I might even come to a convention. But I need to retire first. Maybe next year:

<https://www.retroedtech.com/2012/06/laterna-magica-or-magic-latern.html>



Group NW Will be having a meeting and potluck  
Noon  
October 7, 2018  
Port Townsend



- join us for a fun & informative time
- share your latest find or story

Please e-mail Larry for where and how to get there.  
[designerlc@comcast.net](mailto:designerlc@comcast.net)

*It will most probably have magic lantern stuff.*



**NEWS**  
North America's Largest  
**FALL CAMERA FAIR**  
Sunday, October 14, 2018  
TRIDENT HALL  
145 Evans Avenue, Toronto  
(south of the Gardiner, east of Islington Avenue)  
10:00am to 3:00pm  
Admission \$7 / Students free / Free parking

## Welcome New Members

### Katie Grant

3321 Rangers Gate  
Marietta  
GA 30062

Formerly accountant, now photographer & collector

Ph: (770)855-5636

E: [Ekaterinaphotography@gmail.com](mailto:Ekaterinaphotography@gmail.com)

Interested in lanterns and slides, will buy, sell & trade.